AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The status of all claims and the text of pending claims, with markings to show current changes relative to the immediately prior version, follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for assisting the securing of a clamp having a fastener to a mounting location, the tool comprising:

a first jaw;

a second jaw; and

an actuator to move said first jaw relative to said second jaw;

wherein said first jaw includes a retainer for ~~a~~ the clamp fastener.

2. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the tool is a clamp.

3. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein one of said jaws remains stationary.

4. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein one of said jaws is unitary with said actuator.

5. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein said jaws are removable.

6. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein said second jaw includes an opening aligned with said retainer in said first jaw to allow a fastener to extend therethrough.

7. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein said actuator is hand-operated.

8. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein said actuator is machine-operated.

9. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein said actuator includes a threaded shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) A tool for securing a P clamp having a fastener to a mounting location, comprising:

a first jaw;

a second jaw; and

an actuator to move said first jaw relative to said second jaw;

wherein said first jaw includes a retainer for a the P clamp fastener.

11. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein the tool is a clamp.

12. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein one of said jaws remains stationary.

13. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein one of said jaws is unitary with said actuator.

14. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein said jaws are removable.

15. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein said second jaw includes an opening aligned with said retainer in said first jaw to allow a fastener to extend therethrough.

16. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein said actuator is hand-operated.

17. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein said actuator is machine-operated.

18. (Original) The tool of claim 10, wherein said actuator includes a threaded shaft.

19. (Original) A method of attaching a clamp to an object, comprising the steps of:

providing a tool with a first jaw having a retainer for a fastener, a second jaw, and an actuator to move said first jaw relative to said second jaw;

placing a first fastener in said retainer;

locating said clamp between said jaws;

manipulating said actuator to tighten said clamp; and

securing a second fastener to said first fastener.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said locating step includes placing the object between said jaws.

21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said manipulating and securing steps are accomplished with a power tool.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said manipulating and securing steps can use the same power tool.

23. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said clamp is a P clamp.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said object is a component of a gas turbine engine.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said component is an external component of a gas turbine engine.

26. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein said retainer is a recess.

27. (New) The tool of claim 1, further comprising at least one adapter removably mounted to said tool, each said adapter having a shape corresponding to a clamp or a mounting location so that said tool can be used with a variety of clamps or mounting locations.

28. (New) The tool of claim 27, wherein said at least one adapter removably mounts to said second jaw.

29. (New) The tool of claim 8, wherein said actuator is selected so that the machine used to operate said actuator can also drive the clamp fastener.

30. (New) The tool of claim 10, wherein said retainer is a recess.

31. (New) The tool of claim 10, further comprising at least one adapter removably mounted to said tool, each said adapter having a shape corresponding to a P clamp or a mounting location so that said tool can be used with a variety of P clamps or mounting locations.

32. (New) The tool of claim 31, wherein said at least one adapter removably mounts to said second jaw.

33. (New) The tool of claim 17, wherein said actuator is selected so that the machine used to operate said actuator can also drive the P clamp fastener.

34. (New) A tool, comprising:

a first jaw;

a second jaw; and

an actuator to move said first jaw relative to said second jaw;

wherein said first jaw includes a retainer for a fastener and said second jaw includes an opening aligned with said retainer in said first jaw to allow a fastener to extend therethrough.

35. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein the tool is a clamp.

36. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein one of said jaws remains stationary.

37. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein one of said jaws is unitary with said actuator.

38. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein said jaws are removable.

39. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein said actuator is hand-operated.

40. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein said actuator is machine-operated.

41. (New) The tool of claim 40, wherein said actuator is selected so that the machine used to operate said actuator can also drive the clamp fastener.

42. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein said actuator includes a threaded shaft.

43. (New) The tool of claim 34, wherein said retainer is a recess.

44. (New) The tool of claim 34, further comprising at least one adapter removably mounted to said tool, each said adapter having a shape corresponding to a clamp or a mounting location so that said tool can be used with a variety of clamps or mounting locations.

45. (New) The tool of claim 44, wherein said at least one adapter removably mounts to said second jaw.

46. (New) A tool for assisting the securing of a clamp having a fastener to a mounting location, the tool comprising:

a first jaw;

a second jaw; and

an actuator operable by a tool to move said first jaw relative to said second jaw;

wherein said actuator is selected so that the tool used to operate said actuator can also be used to drive the clamp fastener.

47. (New) The tool of claim 46, wherein the tool used to operate said actuator is a power tool.

48. (New) The tool of claim 46, wherein said first jaw includes a retainer for the clamp fastener.

49. (New) The tool of claim 48, wherein said second jaw includes an opening aligned with said retainer in said first jaw to allow a fastener to extend therethrough.

50. (New) The tool of claim 48, wherein said retainer is a recess.

51. (New) The tool of claim 46, wherein the tool is a clamp.

52. (New) The tool of claim 46, wherein one of said jaws remains stationary.

53. (New) The tool of claim 46, wherein one of said jaws is unitary with said actuator.

54. (New) The tool of claim 46, wherein said jaws are removable.

55. (New) The tool of claim 46, wherein said actuator includes a threaded shaft.

56. (New) The tool of claim 46, further comprising at least one adapter removably mounted to said tool, each said adapter having a shape corresponding to a clamp or a mounting location so that said tool can be used with a variety of clamps or mounting locations.

57. (New) The tool of claim 56, wherein said at least one adapter removably mounts to said second jaw.